

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3823

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, SO, ET
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT PREPARES PUBLICATION ON
SOMALI INVASION OF OGADEN

REFS: (A) ADDIS ABABA 0743 (B) ADDIS ABABA 3692
(C) ADDIS ABABA 1659 (D) ADDIS ABABA 2927

SUMMARY. ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT PREPARES A BROCHURE ON THE
SOMALI INVASION OF THE OGADEN FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION
ABROAD. ETHIOPIAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON WILL DISTRIBUTE COPIES
TO EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS. PURPOSE FOR
PUBLICATION NOW IS TO GAIN ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SYMPATHY
FOR THE ETHIOPIAN CAUSE. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE THAT THE
ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PREPARED AN ILLUSTRATED BROCHURE
ON THE 1977 SOMALI INVASION OF THE OGADEN. COPIES WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED WIDELY THROUGH ETHIOPIAN EMBASSIES, INCLUDING
IN THE US TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG; SENATORS CLARK AND MCGOVERN;
REPRESENTATIVES BONKER, DIGGS, TSONGAS AND ZABLOCKI; AND
AF/E DIRECTOR BEYER. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN A COPY BUT HAVE
REQUESTED SOME.

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2. THE CONTENTS OF THE BROCHURE ARE SAID TO BE A FOLLOW-
UP TO THE GOVERNMENT-ORGANIZED FEBRUARY AND APRIL VISITS BY
JOURNALISTS AND DIPLOMATS TO THE OGADEN FRONT (REFTELS A
AND B). IF THIS IS THE CASE, THE BROCHURE WILL FEATURE PHOTOS
OF CAPTURED US AND NATO MILITARY EQUIPMENT (ADDIS ABABA 705)
TO DOCUMENT THE ETHIOPIAN CONTENTION OF WESTERN SUPPORT TO

THE SOMALIS. CAPTURED SOVIET EQUIPMENT DOES NOT PROVE SOVIET SUPPORT OF THE SOMALI INVASION AS THE SOVIETS CLAIM THEY STOPPED SUPPORT TO SOMALIA PRIOR TO THE INVASION.

3. ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT REASONS BEHIND PUBLICATION OF SUCH A BROCHURE AT THIS TIME ARE PROBABLY THREEFOLD: (A) TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF AFRICAN SYMPATHY FOR ETHIOPIA; (B) TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SUPPORT IN VIEW OF INCREASING SOMALI ACTIVITY IN THE OGADEN (REFTEL C); AND (C) TO DOCUMENT ETHIOPIAN CLAIMS FOR WAR DAMAGES AGAINST SOMALIA (REFTEL D).

4. WILL ADVISE FURTHER WHEN WE CAN OBTAIN A COPY OF THE BROCHURE.
CHAPIN

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Message Attributes

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